

**NDDOT/Contractor Liaison Meeting
1:15 p. m. – March 16, 2009
Room 330, Transportation Building
Bismarck, North Dakota**

Attendees

There were twenty-six (26) attendees representing three (3) companies, along with representatives from the Associated General Contractors (AGC), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the North Dakota Department of Transportation (Department). The meeting was held in Room 330 of the Transportation Building and was broadcast via the Department's video conferencing sites in the Grand Forks, Fargo, Valley City, Devils Lake, Minot, Williston, and Dickinson district offices.

Grant Levi, Deputy Director for Engineering, North Dakota Department of Transportation, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made at all locations.

Francis Ziegler, Director, North Dakota Department of Transportation - Opening Comments & Legislative Update

The Omnibus Bill will give North Dakota \$220 million for highway construction. The funds need to be apportioned by FHWA.

The Highway Bill expires September 2009. Five states (ND, SD, WY, MT, and ID) have formed a coalition that will be working together. There will be a major effort by the coalition to make sure rural states get their share of dollars.

The Department has already received stimulus funds. The Governor signed all of the certifications and gave Director Ziegler the delegation authority for highway projects. The Department has advertised \$57 million in highway construction projects; \$40 million for the April 3rd bid opening and \$17 million for the April 17th bid opening. These projects will move forward very quickly.

This has been a very busy legislative session. The Department had a major push back on new infrastructure projects. There is a large concern about maintaining the current roads without adding more that will need to be maintained in the future.

The legislature has questioned if the Department needs \$120 million from the Governor's budget if it is receiving \$120 million in stimulus funds. There are many projects to be done. In order to receive the stimulus funds, the Governor had to certify what North Dakota's transportation plan was for the upcoming year. The Department will receive less than \$120 million, but is not certain how much it will receive.

Grant Levi, Deputy Director for Engineering - Stimulus Funding

Jobs created with the stimulus funds will need to be tracked. The Department intends to pass along the reporting requirements to the industry. A special provision addressing reporting requirements will be coming out.

Comment: One contractor was surprised to see as much for buildings as what was being put in to roads.

Answer: This is a Congressional package; the Department has no control over that.

Deb Igoe, Director, Civil Rights Division - DBE Goal

The DBE annual goal is 7%. DBE participation is at 6.24%. Most of the participation is race-conscious, 4.51%, with 1.73% being race-neutral. Hopefully, the race-neutral participation will increase so the race-conscious goals can be cut back.

There will be contractor training, in Fargo, tomorrow from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and the following day from 9:00 a.m. – noon. All of the training spaces in Fargo have been filled. Nine to ten businesses have signed up to attend. Training will be held in Bismarck next week.

Grant Levi, Deputy Director for Engineering - Load Restrictions

Grant thanked the industry for all their assistance during the spring flooding.

Load restrictions will be in effect in all districts within seven to ten days.

Question: What was the overrun in snow removal? How will that affect patching?

Answer: The Department exhausted snow removal funds at the end of January. Some dollars had to be moved from road projects to snow and ice removal.

Internet Questions - None

Audience Questions - None

Grant Levi, Deputy Director for Engineering - Closing Comments

Grant thanked everyone for attending.